Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for coding phonetic information, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence;

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string, wherein the bit string has a length of 32 bits;

replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling;

covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups; and

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~~The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of~~ decreasing a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of the character sequence.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 9, further comprising the step of coding a first character with five (5) bits.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform method steps for coding phonetic information, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence, wherein the character sequence is a name;

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string;

replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence, with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or similar sound when spoken with a different spelling;

covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

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extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a

mapping between the character sequence and said normalized character groups by a

respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

empirically founding said tables comprising groups of character sequences;

spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics;

decreasing a representative precision with a distance from the beginning of said

original character sequence;

representing the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.

12. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine,

tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform

method steps for providing symbol insertion in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a bit

string related to said phonetic information has a length of 32 bits.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for coding phonetic information, the

apparatus comprising:

a coder which codes phonetic information about a character sequence in a bit

string;

a deriver which derives said phonetic information from names;

a replacer which replaces at least one group of characters in the character

sequence with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same

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or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling;

a coverer which covers the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

a second coverer which covers the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

a third coverer which covers the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

an extractor which extracts said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

a founder which empirically founds said tables comprising groups of the character sequences;

a speller which spells actual language in use which reflects the specific phonetics;

a decreaser which decreases coding precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

a second coder which codes the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.

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